

providing configuration services to said network if the response to said configuration information request is not received from said remote device within said period of time;

providing configuration services to said network if said device has a higher priority than said remote device; and

operating as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

12. (Twice Amended) A method of initializing a network comprising:
automatically assigning an address to a device on said network;
automatically assigning a network name to said device on said network;
automatically supplying user and group information across said network; and
automatically determining service capability of said device on said network,
wherein if said device is capable of providing configuration services to said network; and
providing configuration services to one or more devices of said network if
configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than
said device.

21. (Amended) A network comprising:
a first device coupled to said network, said first device configured to
automatically
request a first network address;

receive a first network address from a second device coupled to said network;

provide a network configuration if said first network address is not received from said second device;

determine its priority level on said network if said first network address is received from said second device;

provide said network configuration if said priority level is higher than a second priority level of said second device; and

operate as a client device to said remote device if said remote device has a higher priority than said device.

26. (Amended) A network comprising:

a first device configured to

assign an address to a second device on said network;

assign a network name to said second device on said network;

supply user and group information across said network; and

determine service capability of said second device on said network,

wherein if said first device is capable of providing configuration services to said network; and

provide configuration services to one or more devices of said network if configuration services are not provided by a network device having a higher priority than said device.